



**FEMA**

# Press Release

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## **FEMA PROVIDES ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION FOR EVACUATION PROJECT**

**SEATTLE --** The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that an additional \$3 million will be provided to the Oregon Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) for the Oregon Evacuation Infrastructure Project. Citing preliminary data from an on-going technical study that incorporates evacuation into emergency plans, FEMA has decided to fund Phase II of the Project.

"The preliminary findings of this study lead us to the conclusion that for some chemical accident scenarios, moving to a balanced approach using both evacuation and sheltering-in-place will reduce public risk," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

FEMA previously funded Phase I, for \$1.5 million, which provided traffic signal upgrades and traffic monitoring cameras at key Hermiston intersections.

"To this end, we intend to provide \$3 million for Phase II of the Oregon Evacuation Infrastructure Project, meaning significant road improvements in Hermiston, particularly in the areas of Elm Street and Diagonal Boulevard," said John Pennington, FEMA Regional Director for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska."

FEMA has also determined, based upon federal statutes, that before funding Phase III of the project, which would provide further road enhancements, a detailed technical analysis of Phase III will have to be completed, coupled with a cost/benefit analysis of Phases I and II. The purpose of this analysis will be to validate that all elements of the \$6 million Phase III further substantially decrease risk to the community.

Since March 2003, FEMA has been a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident.

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